Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A bailer valve housing, comprising:

a cylindrical trailing end adapted for engagement with a cylindrical main body of a bailer;

said valve housing having a leading end with tapered sidewalls;

a ~~free-floating~~ ball valve disposed in said valve housing;

an annular valve seat formed in said leading end;

said ball valve adapted to be lifted from said annular valve seat by inflowing liquid fluid when said bailer is lowered into a body of liquid fluid so that said inflowing liquid fluid enters the bailer from a leading, bottom end thereof;

said annular valve seat formed flush with a leading edge of said leading end;

said annular valve seat having a wedge shape that extends radially inwardly from said leading edge, said wedge shape reducing in width from a relatively wide base at its radially outermost end to a point-like radially innermost end, thereby forming a thin annular contact with said ball valve;

said ~~free-floating~~ ball valve having a diameter only slightly greater than a diameter of said annular valve seat;

about half of said ~~free-floating~~ ball valve extending downwardly from said leading edge of said valve housing;

whereby liquid fluid in said valve housing is captured within said valve housing when said ~~free-floating~~ ball valve is fully seated in said annular valve seat;

whereby said liquid fluid captured within said valve housing occupies all of said valve housing, being flush with said leading end of said valve housing so that no air pocket is formed between said liquid fluid and said leading end;

whereby said liquid fluid is drained from said valve housing when said ~~free-floating~~ ball valve is unseated from said annular ~~check~~ valve seat; ~~and~~

whereby said liquid fluid does not encounter oxygen during said draining because the flush positioning of said annular valve seat with the leading edge of said valve housing prevents formation of an annular air pocket at said leading edge~~.~~ and;

whereby oxygenation of said liquid fluid is minimized by said inflow of liquid fluid into said bailer from said bottom end of said bailer.

2. The bailer of claim 1, further comprising:

said ~~free-floating~~ ball having a spherical configuration.